

Chair at any time may declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

Finally, Section 5 authorizes the Speaker to appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by sections 3 and 4 as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

Testimony was heard from Chairman McKeon and Rep. Smith of Washington.

PUBLIC ALERT SYSTEM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled “The Effectiveness of Our Nation’s Public Alert System.” Testimony was heard from Damon Penn, Assistant Administrator, National Continuity Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency; James Arden Barnett, Jr., Rear Admiral (Ret.), Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance and Investment, to hold hearings to examine investor risks in capital raising, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Business meeting to consider S. 1449, to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes, S. 1950, to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and reduce commercial motor vehicle-related accidents and fatalities, to authorize the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, S. 1952, to improve hazardous materials transportation safety and for other purposes, S. 1953, to reauthorize the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, to improve transportation research and development, and a promotion list in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine alternative energy tax incentives, focusing on the effect of short-term extensions on alternative technology investment, domestic manufacturing, and jobs, 9:45 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on European Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the state of human rights and rule of law in Russia, focusing on United States policy options, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Business meeting to consider S. 1855, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, and the nominations of Wendy M. Spencer, of Florida, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Deepa Gupta, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, Christopher Merrill, of Iowa, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, Stephanie Orlando, of New York, and Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, both to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, and a nomination list in the Public Health Service, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, “Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act of 2012”, S. 1515, to permit certain members of the United States Secret Service and certain members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division who were appointed in 1984, 1985, or 1986 to elect to be covered under the District of Columbia Police and Firefighter Retirement and Disability System in the same manner as members appointed prior to 1984, H.R. 2297, to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, H.R. 789, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the “Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office”, and H.R. 2422, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the “Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office”, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “ICANN’s Top-Level Domain Name Program.” 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises, markup of the following: the “Private Mortgage Market Investment Act”; and H.R. 2483, the “Whistleblower Improvement Act of 2011.” 10 a.m., HVC–210 Capitol.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled “Confronting Damascus: U.S. Policy toward the Evolving Situation in Syria.” 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing entitled “Judicial Reliance on Foreign Law.” 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Leadership of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “HHS and the Catholic Church: Examining the Politicization of Grants (minority day of hearing).” 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Integrated Planning and Permitting: An Opportunity for EPA to Provide Communities with Flexibility to Make Smart Investments in Water Quality.” 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Is it Working: Reviewing VA’s Compensated Work Therapy Program.” 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.